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August 19, 1977

Dear General Brown,

On August 3, I spent the day with Lt. General Dennis McAuliffe, SOUTHCOM, in the Canal Zone visiting the U.S. school facilities and discussing with him and with his staff the many human rights policy issues which we are currently facing in Latin America.

Of course, I have nothing but praise for the courtesies which General McAuliffe and his staff showed to my colleagues and to me. We were impressed as well by the high quality of both the briefings and the discussions which followed them.

More important, however, are the ability and leadership which General McAuliffe brings to the implementation of the Administration's human rights policy. The nature of many Latin American governments makes the role of U.S. military personnel in the region vital to the understanding these countries have of our policy. The situation is unique.

General McAuliffe's letter, outlining the human rights policy to the commanders of the Southern Command, was timely and of inestimable assistance. We strive to meet our objectives of increasing the observation of human rights by all governments and distancing ourselves from govern-

General George S. Brown,
Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staffs,
The Pentagon,
Washington, D.C.

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ments which engage in repressive practices. The conduct of all of our affairs is an integral part of this aspect of U.S. foreign policy as you know. General McAuliffe has displayed acute sensitivity to this matter. In the long run his leadership may have more impact on human rights practices in Latin America than the actions of any other U.S. individual short of the President.

I wanted you to know my reactions because I was impressed and heartened by the hours spent in the Zone and the calibre of leadership you have furnished that region of the world.

I hope, as time permits, to visit the unified commands in Europe and the Pacific. In the meantime, I wanted to encourage you to continue your heapful efforts to make advancement of human rights a major concern among the military people who play such an important part in the totality of U.S. foreign policy throughout the world.

Sincerely,

Patricia M. Derian
Coordinator for Human
Rights and Humanitarian Affairs

cc: Asst. Secretary David McGiffert OSD/ISA

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